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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Thank you for hearing me.

Microsoft has engaged in anticompetitive practices that have harmed the public. Their proprietary document formats preclude any real competition since competitors products can't be fully compatible. They have consistently signed exclusive agreements with OEM's to prevent consumer's from having a choice. This practice goes all the way back to DOS. They have deliberately inserted code in their products to prevent competitors from working. Andrew Shulmann's "Undocumented Windows" covers much of this. In the Windows 3.1 era, Microsoft distributed a faulty DLL to their competitors that prevented their products from sharing files in a networked environment. Microsoft Word had the working version of the DLL.

I am not familiar with law, but I believe Microsoft is guilty of abusing its monopoly position, and they will continue to do so unless someone actually punishes them in a punitive manner.

As a final note, I would like to ask the question, "who owns your data?" If you do not have Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, and Microsoft Powerpoint, can you read your documents, spreadsheets, and presentations? If Microsoft asked you to return their software, even for a full refund, how would you gain access to your documents?